

WHEREAS, the Honorable Stephen W. Rideout, Chief Judge for the Alexandria Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court, has served the Court, children and the community for over 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Judge Rideout has contributed substantially during his 15 years as a juvenile court judge to improve the administration of justice at local, state and national levels through his committed service not only on the bench, but also on committees, task forces and organizations beyond the courtroom; and

WHEREAS, under Judge Rideout's leadership, he has operated a Model Court in Alexandria as part of the National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges since 1995, working collaboratively to find ways to improve the system for the benefit of children and families; and

WHEREAS, the numerous national committees he has served on have all been to ensure that the innovative practices he has implemented in Alexandria can be shared in other parts of the country and the good works by other courts can be brought back to Alexandria, all with a focus on what is best for children; and

WHEREAS, Chief Judge Stephen W. Rideout was selected as the 2004 National CASA Association Judge of the Year and was presented the award at their national conference in early June. This award is given annually by the national organization for the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program to an outstanding Judge whose work with the local CASA Program has demonstrated exceptional leadership in furthering consistent, quality representation of children. Judge Rideout has been an inspirational role model for the CASA Program, putting abused and neglected children's interest first in all his decisions and working with the CASA Program to ensure that he has as much information as possible when critical decisions were made in children's lives; and

WHEREAS, Judge Rideout's passion and commitment to children is equally exemplified outside the courtroom through his leadership in such initiatives as Camp Getaway & Angels Camp that he helped establish with an Alexandria Police Officer, the start-up of the Tutoring Consortium, the establishment of Kids, the Court & the Arts, in which he brought together the arts community to work with children at-risk, his valued perspective on the Alexandria Youth Policy Commission and his service as a member of the Board of Trustees on the children-focused Ivakota Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Judge Rideout represents everything that is right with our judicial system by taking every action and step that he believes will help improve the lives of children, highlighting why the title "child advocate" really comes to mind when considering his thought provoking and enthusiastic involvement in all that he does for children; and

WHEREAS, Alexandria's children and the Alexandria community have been inordinately blessed to have his compassion, his integrity, his energy and his intellect involved in the lives of children and families for 15 years as the Chief Judge of Alexandria's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court as he marks his retirement this year at the end of July;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, wish to thank Judge Stephen Rideout for his outstanding service and dedication for over 15 years. The City looks forward to his continued involvement in the improvement of children's lives through endeavors, locally, statewide, and nationally.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 22nd day of June 2004.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE **MAYOR**
On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk